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## ILLINOIS STATE PARK

## Lodges

VOLUME 1 • SPRING 1989

DEPOSITORY

OCT 25 1989

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

## From the Director:

*I would like to invite you to consider holding your next retreat, conference or other off-site meeting at an Illinois State Park Lodge. Through Build Illinois and the \$100 Million Park and Conservation Expansion and Renovation Program, we were given the means to improve and enhance Illinois State Parks. Seven refurbished or new lodges are open for the 1989 season and are equipped with all the amenities of high quality lodging establishments: excellent restaurants, ample conference and banquet rooms, pools, saunas, exercise facilities and more.*

*The lodges are located throughout the state and are designed to serve a variety of purposes. You may select the lodge that best meets your group's needs. If a small, quiet retreat is on your agenda, consider the serenity of White Pines or Cave-In-Rock. Eagle Creek, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, Illinois Beach and Giant City can accommodate larger groups. You'll find consistent quality, good food and friendly service at all of our facilities.*

*In this newsletter, you will find information on each State Park Lodge. We need your help in promoting our "new" State Park Lodge System and would appreciate your use of our facilities for your upcoming events.*

Sincerely,

Mark Frech

Mark Frech

Director

## Clarion Inn at Eagle Creek officially open

On Monday, June 12, 1989, Governor James R. Thompson led the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the Clarion Inn at Eagle Creek Resort and Conference Center on Lake Shelbyville in central Illinois. The multi-million dollar resort is expected to be one of the Midwest's premier vacation spots.

Joining the Governor at the grand opening ceremony was Illinois Department of Conservation Director Mark Frech; project developer Ed Forester; Colonel James E. Corbin, Commander of the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Senator Penny Severns, and Representative Mike Tate.

"This public-private development is the first of its type in Illinois," Frech stated. "Projects like this provide a great opportunity to expand tourism and economic development in this state."

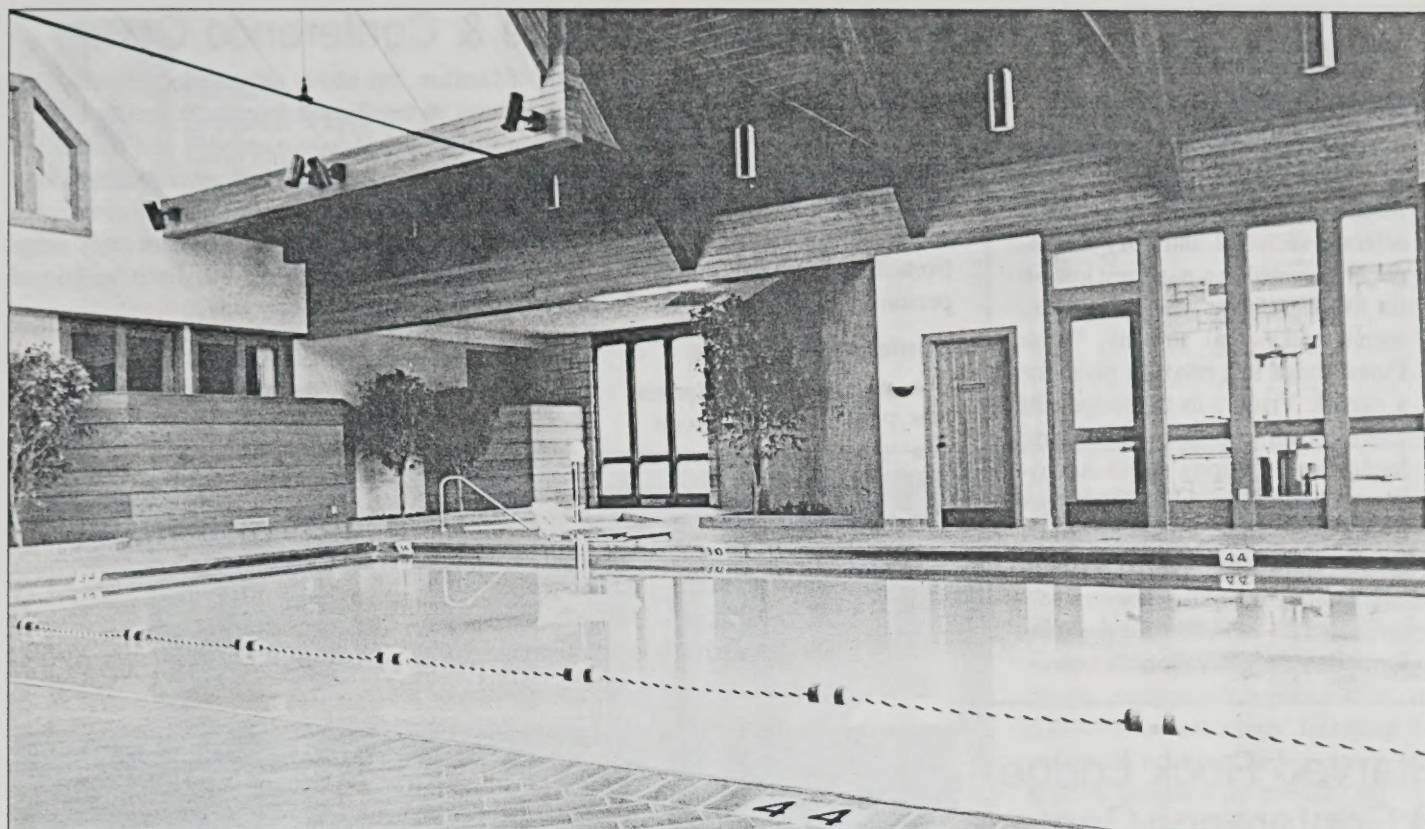


Participating in the ribbon cutting were Mark Frech, Director of the Department of Conservation, Representative Mike Tate, Secretary of State Jim Edgar, Governor James R. Thompson, Developer Ed Forester and Senator Penny Severns.









## Luxury in the woods is featured at new Clarion Inn at Eagle Creek

Located on Lake Shelbyville in central Illinois, the new Clarion Inn will be one of Illinois' premier resort and conference centers. Featuring an 18-hole championship golf course, courtesy boat docks, swimming beach, tennis courts and fishing, the Clarion has an abundance of activities. For those who wish to explore, there are numerous hiking, biking and jogging trails. A complete health club includes an indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, sauna and exercise center. In addition, you will find the hotel accommodations to be outstanding. There are 138 luxurious rooms with scenic views and 10 executive suites designed for entertainment, meetings and relaxation. Two fine restaurants and a cocktail lounge complete the setting. Lodge rooms range from \$72 - 87, while suites range from \$95 - 115. Children 16 years and under stay free in same room with parent. Special weekend family and golf packages are available as well.

### Conference facilities

- Variety of meeting rooms:
  - Board room seats 20
  - Grand ballroom seats 700
  - Five other meeting rooms--each seats 50-100 people
- Amphitheater with tiered seating for 56 and closed circuit TV
- AV equipment for classes, seminars or lectures
- Banquet seating for 450
- Catering available for buffets, banquets, brunches or cocktail parties
- Conference retreat accommodates 30

Call (217) 756-3456 for more information or reservations.

Most of our lodges feature swimming pools (indoor or outdoor) for guests' enjoyment. Each pool is accessible to the handicapped as shown here at Pere Marquette Lodge and Conference Center.

## Giant City Lodge Refurbished

Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, this newly restored lodge and restaurant still retains its historic beauty. A huge fireplace is the featured attraction in the lobby of the lodge. The original furniture has been restored and is in use. Lodge features include dining rooms, a cocktail lounge, conference rooms, an exercise room and a sheltered outdoor pool. Located in the beautiful Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois, there are hiking trails, horseback riding facilities, and nearby hunting and fishing.

Thirty-four brand new cabins are waiting to accommodate you. Closed mid-December through January 31.

- Dining room capacity: 400 persons
- Accommodates 125 in a conference banquet setting.
- Comfortably handles 80 for an overnight stay.

### Cabin rates

Historic	\$40 - 50
Prairie	\$45 - 55
Bluff	\$75 - 85

Call (618) 457-4921 for more information or reservations.



## For small retreat visit White Pines Inn

Nestled in the lush surroundings of White Pines State Park near Rockford, this newly restored lodge offers a secluded and cozy atmosphere. Located in a park best known for its magnificent white pine trees, scenic rocks, and streams, White Pines Lodge is a relaxing place for a retreat. Visitors to the lodge will enjoy spending time in the historic lounge area featuring native American artwork. All 25 cabins are air-conditioned, have private baths and range from \$33 - 40. Children twelve and under stay free.

Call (815) 946-3817 for more information or reservations.

## Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center

Set in the rolling bluffs just outside of Grafton, the newly restored lodge offers first class accommodations and spectacular views of the Illinois River. Originally built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, it has been expanded and updated to a premier facility. Among the amenities available are: an elegant restaurant, cocktail lounge, indoor pool, tennis court, gift shop, whirlpool, game room and conference center. There are 50 rooms and 22 cabins available for guests. In-season rates range from \$46.50-60.00 and off-season rates range from \$40.50-54.00. Each additional person over 18 years of age is \$10.00. Children under 17 stay free.

### Conference facilities

- Audio-visual equipment
- Public address system
- Spotlights and operators
- Decorations and ice carvings
- Four banquet rooms/meeting rooms  
2900 square feet combined (37' x 19' each)
- Capacities: Rounds — 300 combined  
Theatre — 360 combined  
Classroom — 200 combined

Call (618) 786-2331 for more information or reservations.

## Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center

Featuring majestic views of the Illinois River, Starved Rock Lodge is located in one of the most visited parks in Illinois, famous for its unique geological rock formations and canyons. The refurbished lodge and restaurant combine luxury accommodations and hospitality in a rustic setting. A new indoor swimming pool, wading pool, exercise room, sauna, giant whirlpool and outdoor sun deck are some of the latest additions. Accommodations include lodge rooms from \$42.95 - 62.95 and cabins (some with fireplaces) from \$39.95 - 90.00. Each extra person is \$9.00, while children twelve and under stay free.

### Conference facilities

- Meeting rooms • Banquet facilities

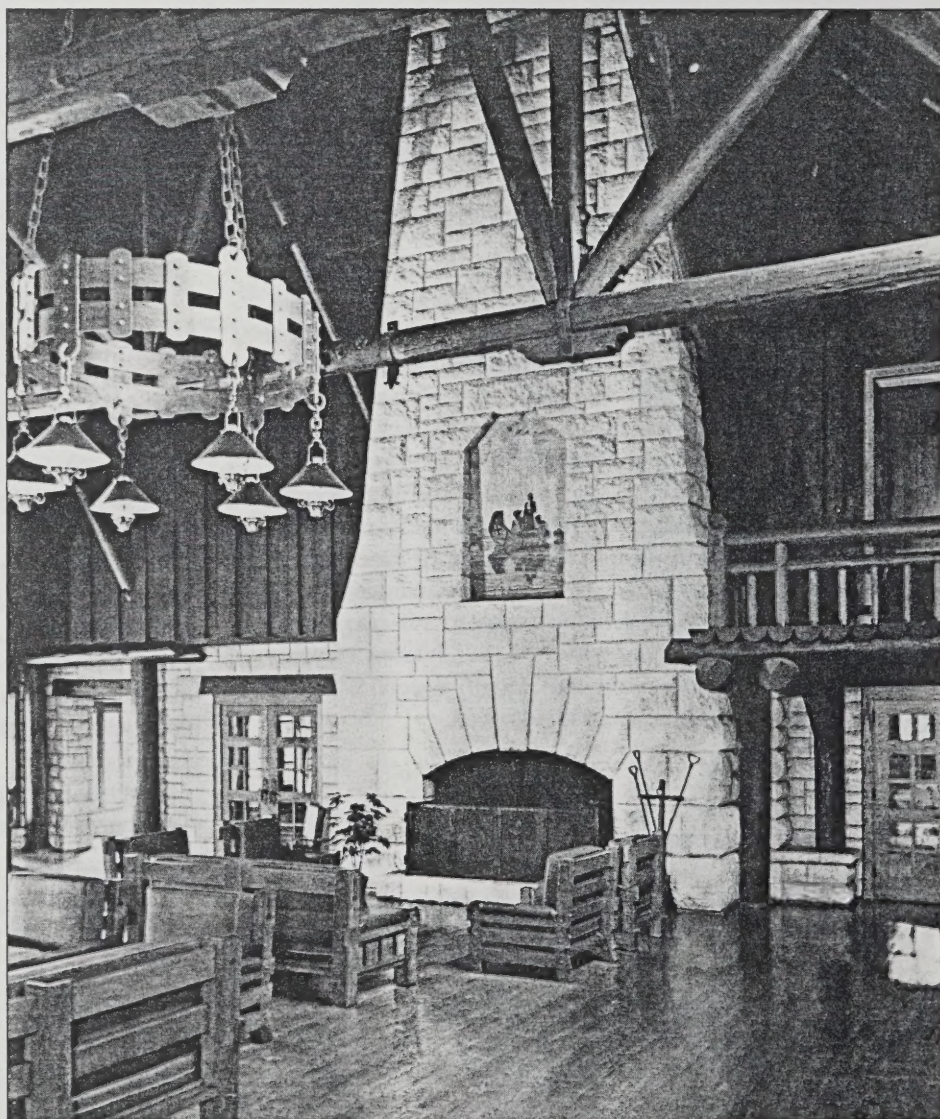
### Conference room capacities

Starved Rock	150-200
LaSalle	30-40
Peru	20-25
Utica	30-40
DePue	10-15
Hennepin	10-20
Illini Cabin	10-20

### Meeting room capacity

2 rooms together	10-15
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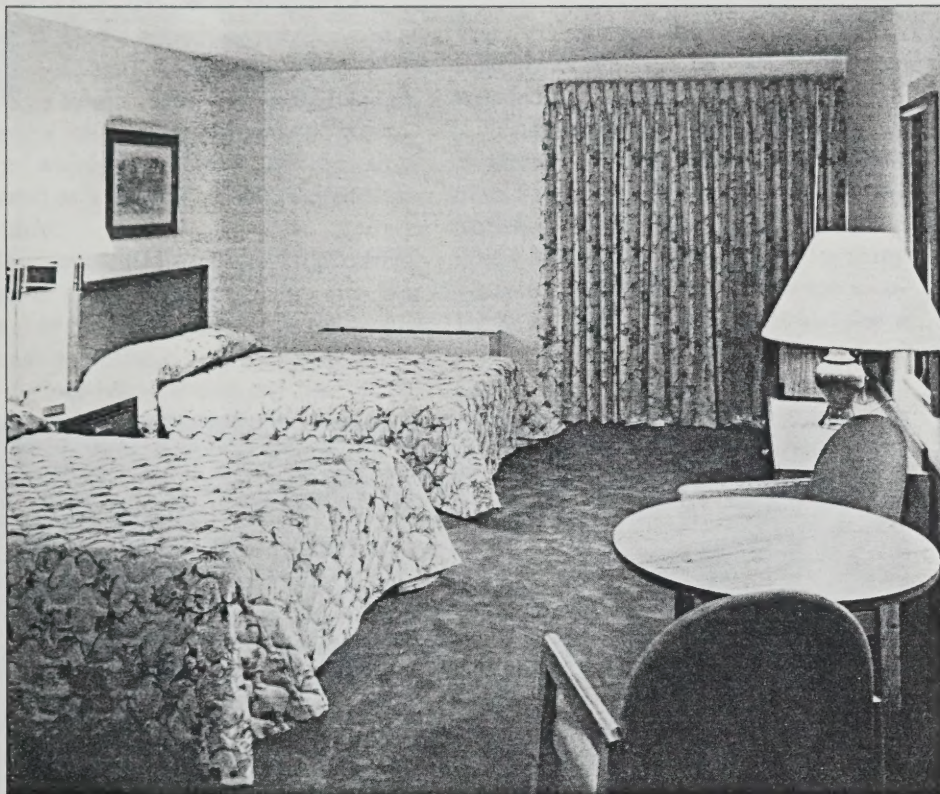
Call (815) 667-4211 for more information or reservations.



Constructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, this massive fireplace is the focal point of the lobby at Pere Marquette Lodge and Conference Center.



Division of Planning & Development  
524 S. Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62701-1787



Guest rooms at the lodges have been upgraded to modern, high quality standards to ensure your comfort.

## Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center

Located on the Lake Michigan shoreline near Zion, Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center has been partially refurbished and is building a reputation for the excellent food and service it offers. The lodge management hails from southern Illinois and has brought "Southern hospitality" to northern Illinois. In addition to spacious accommodations, you will find state-of-the-art exercise equipment including: an Olympic size indoor swimming pool, giant whirlpool, saunas and tanning beds. For outdoor lovers, there is tennis, golf, and three miles of beach for jogging. Accommodations range from \$60-68 for one of the 96 guest rooms. Each additional person is \$7. Special weekend rates are also available.

### Conference facilities

- Conference rooms can accommodate up to 500 people
- Smaller rooms are available for banquets and seminars
- Audio-visual equipment

Group accommodations range from \$62-110 per night. These rates include a combination of lodging, meals and conference facility costs.

Call 1-800-424-6065 for more information or reservations.

## Cave-In-Rock Restaurant & Lodging

Overlooking the scenic Ohio River in southeastern Illinois, Cave-In-Rock is named after the historic cave located there. Newly constructed duplex cabins, an indoor/outdoor restaurant featuring Southern style cooking and a great deal of folklore complete the picture. Surrounded by the famous Shawnee National Forest, these cabin decks offer panoramic views of the magnificent Ohio River. All eight cabins are complete with a bath, kitchenette with sink, refrigerator and wet bar. Off-season rates start at \$44 and in-season rates start at \$52. Each additional person is \$5. Children 12 and under stay free. Closed January and February.

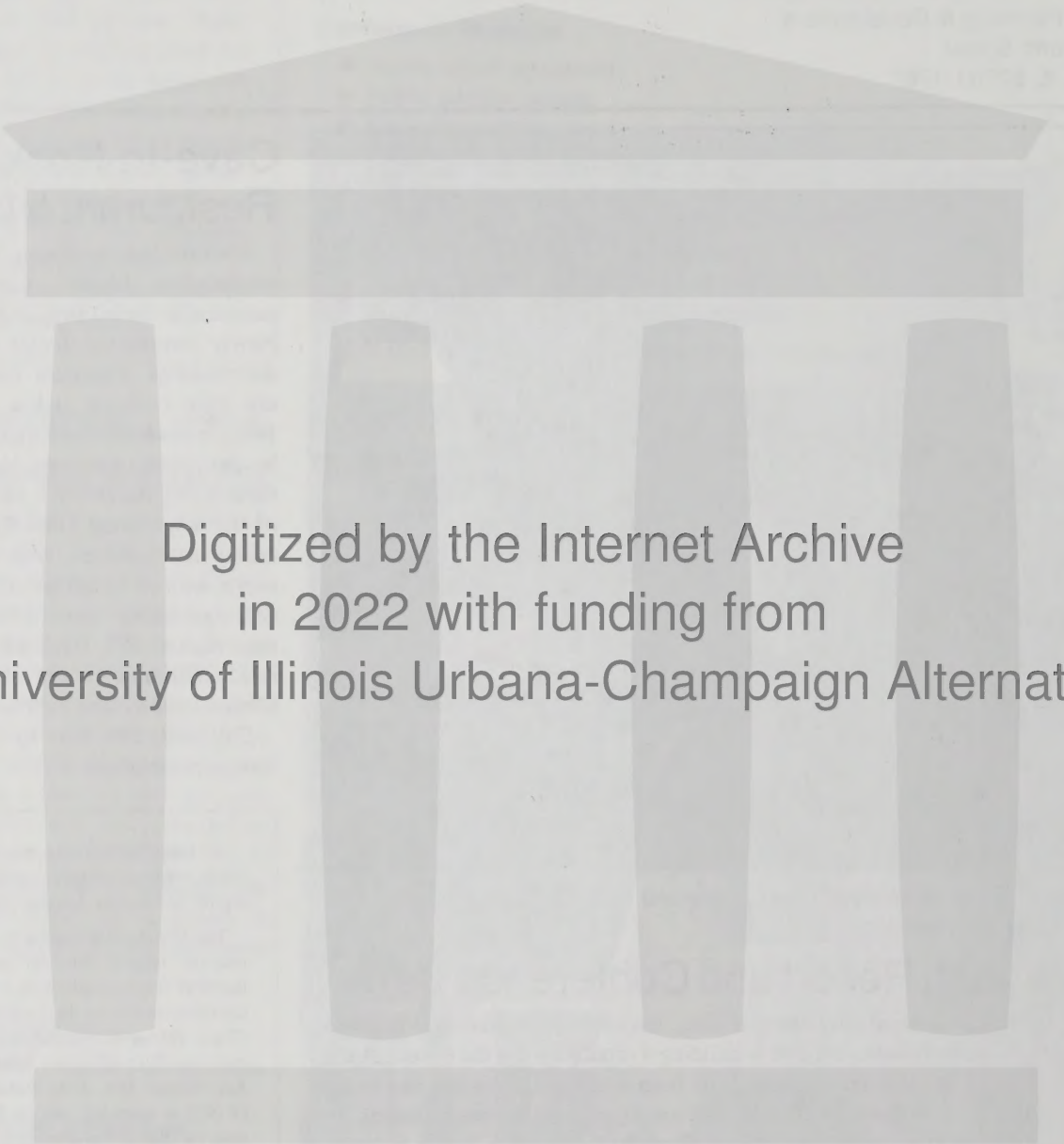
Call (618) 289-4545 for more information or reservations.

All lodge facilities are in compliance with handicapped accessibility provisions, including the restaurants, lodging and pools.

The Illinois Department of Conservation receives federal financial assistance and therefore must comply with the federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Conservation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Conservation, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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## ILLINOIS STATE PARK

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## From the Director:

There's something for everyone at Illinois' state parks. Each of Illinois' newly renovated lodges offers a unique and comfortable experience which will entice the business-minded as well as the leisure-oriented individual.

Business organizations will find conference or meeting facilities for any size group or budget. Families will find recreational and leisure activities in a home-away-from-home setting any time of the

year. Visitors will discover that Illinois' state parks are rich in history and surrounded by natural beauty.

Winter enthusiasts can enjoy a Winter Wilderness Weekend at Starved Rock State Park on Jan. 20-21. Interpreter Toby Miller will take visitors on a 1- to 3-mile hike which will be remembered for many years to come. Hikers will view spectacular 8- to 15-foot tall ice falls and see a variety of birds at the bird feed station. Cross country skiing, ski lessons and a

special Cross Country Ski Weekend, slated for Feb. 3-4, also are available.

Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center features cross country skiing and offers ski lessons for beginners. Experienced and novice skiers can show off their skills on 15 miles of tracked ski trails. Ski rentals also are available at the park.

White Pines Inn now offers a unique dining experience in its all new dinner theater. The theater features special performances by the Apollo Players, an acting group from the Rock River Valley. Nestled away in the lush evergreen forest of White Pines Forest State Park, White Pines Inn and Dinner Theater offers guests a hidden retreat, as well as exciting entertainment.

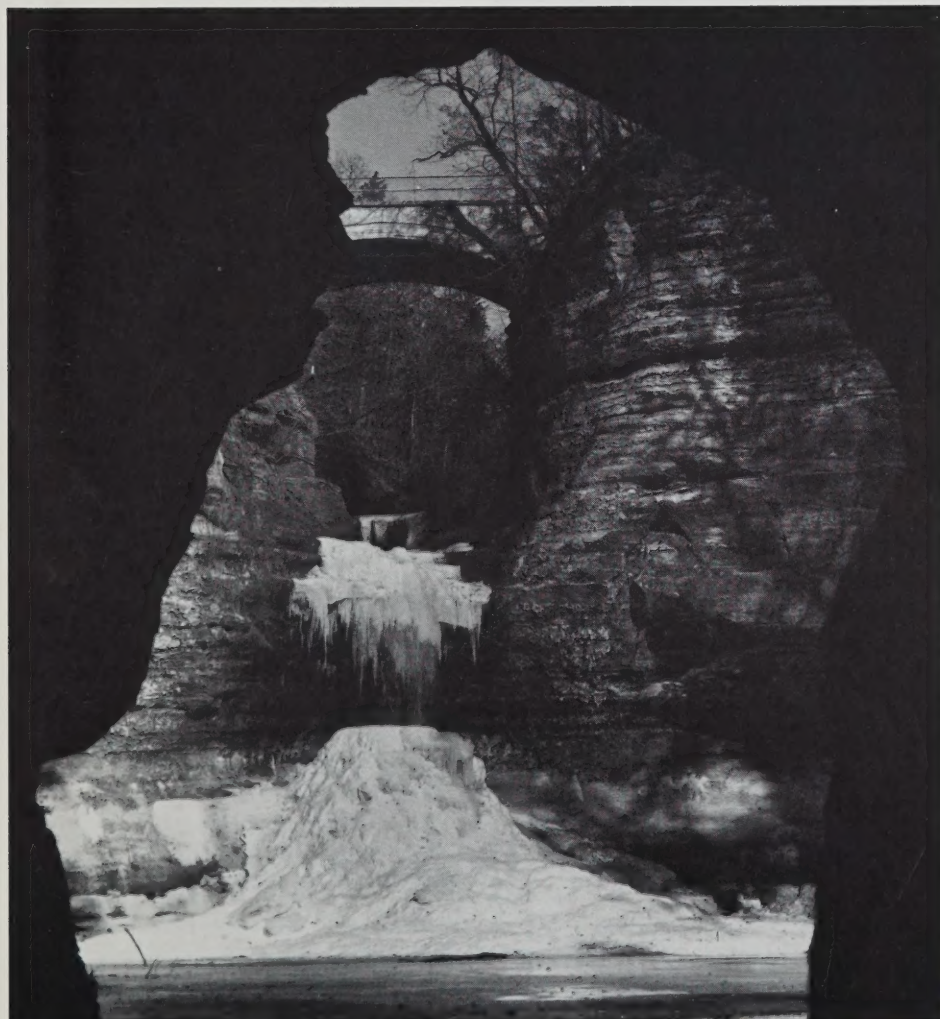
Every winter visitors can view eagles roosting among the bluffs and trees of Pere Marquette State Park. Site Superintendent Dick Niemeyer said the eagles roost at Pere Marquette to feast on the variety of fish in the Illinois River. The eagles generally show up in November and the population increases in December and January.

These are just a few examples of what Illinois' state parks and lodges have to offer this winter. Conference facilities to meet almost any specifications and fall and winter recreational opportunities are available to business groups and individuals looking for a close-to-home getaway.

For additional information or to make reservations, call the Illinois state park lodge that best suits your needs and interests.

Sincerely,

Mark Frech

Mark Frech  
Director

One of the frozen waterfalls hikers may see at Starved Rock State Park.



## Facility and service key to success at Clarion Inn at Eagle Creek

"Thanks for your hospitality and personal attention during our recent stay at Clarion Inn at Eagle Creek Resort," State Farm Claims Manager Melissa Paschoid said to Clarion Inn's management staff.

Paschoid, along with more than 225 State Farm Insurance employees, recently experienced Clarion Inn's outstanding facilities and were impressed with the service they received.

"Because we were treated in such a friendly manner, we plan to use Clarion's facilities again real soon and often," Paschoid said.

Additional business organizations, hearing rave reviews about the successful State Farm Sales conference, made reservations to stay at Clarion Inn, located in Findlay, Ill.

Holiday getaways are plentiful at the new Clarion Inn at Eagle Creek Resort. Champagne and a basket of Christmas cookies will greet guests on December 2, 9, or 16. After dinner in Wildflowers Restaurant, guests can make their own ornaments or sing carols by the lobby fireplace and sip hot

chocolate, retire to their evening's deluxe accommodations and enjoy Sunday Brunch in Wildflowers all for \$80 per person, double occupancy. Children staying in their parent's room can enjoy supervised dinner, caroling, hot chocolate and games from 6-9 p.m. for \$3 each.

Clarion Inn at Eagle Creek features 138 luxurious guest rooms, including ten executive suites and an eight unit conference retreat. Conference facilities include five meeting rooms, seating 50-100; a board room, seating 20; a grand ball room, seating 700; an amphitheater, with tiered seating for 56; and audio-visual equipment. The Inn offers catering for buffets, banquets, brunches and cocktail parties. Two restaurants and a cocktail lounge also are available.

Open year round, Clarion Inn's rates for guest rooms range from \$77 to \$87, while suites range from \$95 to \$105. For more information or to make reservations, please call 1-800-876-3245.



Local residents make over 80 percent of the items at White Pines Inn Gift Shop

## New dinner theater opens at White Pines Inn

The all new White Pines Dinner Theater opened Friday, Nov. 3 at White Pines Inn, located in northwestern Illinois, 12 miles north of Dixon. Lamont and Beth Gaston, Concessionaires of the Inn, are proud to announce the appearance of the Apollo players, actors from the Rock River Valley. Performances include the wonderful enactment of Neil Simon's "Star Spangled Girls" and a story based on Charles Dickens' "Scrooge." Tickets are available at the door or by calling (815) 946-3817 or (815) 625-7419.

At the White Pines Inn Country Flavored Christmas Gift Shop, visitors will find handmade ducks, baskets, stuffed animals and much more. Most of the gift items in the shop are made by local resi-

dents. Additionally, white pine Christmas trees will be available at the gift shop this year.

White Pines Inn offers a secluded and cozy atmosphere. Business "think tanks" are common at the Inn.

"We receive good comments from people who are looking for a quick get away and business retreats," Beth Gaston said. "Our visitors especially like the peace and serenity they find here, and they are impressed with our new look."

All 25 cabins have private baths and telephones. Prices range from \$35 to \$44 per night, and children 12 and under stay free. For more information or to make reservations, individuals can call (815) 946-3817.

## Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy Giant City State Park activities

Surrounded by the beauty of Southern Illinois' Shawnee National Forest, Giant City State Park is a popular tourist attraction which provides both educational and recreational opportunities. Guests can view a variety of rare plants and climb the spectacular 82-foot water tower for a picturesque view of the park.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Giant City State Park is known as a nature lover's paradise. Visitors can challenge their hiking skills on the Post Oak, Devil's Standtable, Giant City, Indian Creek Shelter, Stonefort and Tillium trails.

The Giant City Lodge, originally built in the 1930s, was constructed from native materials of multi-hued sandstone and white oak timber. The lodge is equipped to handle special events, banquets and meetings. The largest banquet/meeting room seats 150, and the Shawnee room can accommodate up to 60. The restaurant seats 170 and features a delicious all-you-can-eat chicken dinner.

Recently restored, the lodge has 12 historic cabins, 18 prairie cabins and four bluff cabins with prices ranging from \$40 to \$75. The lodge is closed from Dec. 17 through Feb. 1.

Individuals wanting more information or to make reservations can call (618) 457-4921.



## Illinois Beach open for year-round enjoyment

Special fall and winter packages are available at Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center, located on Lake Michigan's shoreline, near Zion.

Packages include guest accommodations, all meals, conference facilities set up to individual specifications, rooms with a view of Lake Michigan, audio-visual equipment, all applicable taxes, gratuities and complete use of all resort facilities.

"Last winter, nearly 10,000 visitors came to Illinois Beach to enjoy its 15 miles of groomed tracked ski trails," said Concessionaire John Balaco.

Balaco said if the snow is good this year, he expects even more skiing enthusiasts to visit the center. The winter interpretive program offered at Illinois Beach also is enjoyed by the thousands of winter visitors who appreciate nature any time of the year.

Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center offers 96 guest rooms, an Olympic-size indoor heated swimming pool, a giant whirlpool, saunas and tanning beds. Winter rates start at \$44.95 and children under 18 stay free.

The center is open year round. For more information or to make reservations, individuals can call toll-free, (800) 424-6060.



Guests enjoy cross-country skiing at Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center.

## Cave-In-Rock offers peaceful get-away

Cave-In-Rock State Park, located in southeastern Illinois, is ideal for small group get-aways or business retreats. The park's lodge overlooks the beautiful and scenic Ohio River and provides the peace and serenity conducive to creative thinking and relaxation.

"Cave-In-Rock Lodge's quiet surroundings lure visitors who want to get away from the noise and bustle of the city," said Concessionaire Sandra Jerrels.

The most striking feature of the park is its large, mysterious cave which gave the park its name. In pioneer days, the cave was the home for notorious outlaws and bandits. Pirates used many tricks to entice travelers to the cave and then would rob them of all their worldly possessions. Few of these victims were fortunate enough to live to tell their tales.

Now safe from outlawry, Cave-In-Rock State Park and its surrounding communities continue to offer a great deal of folklore. Four newly constructed duplex cabins have eight suites, each of which comfortably accommodates up to four people. Each suite has a private patio overlooking the Ohio River. An indoor/outdoor restaurant specializes in fresh catfish dinners and homemade desserts. Facilities also are available for private parties.

The park offers visitors a chance to experience a number of outdoor activities such as hiking, picnicking, boating and many other water sports.

Lodging rates start at \$55.25 for up to two people, and kids 12 and under stay free. Cave-In-Rock State Park Lodge, located one-half mile northeast of the village of Cave-In-Rock, is closed during January and February. For additional information or to make reservations, please call (618) 289-4545.

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## Old trees bring new life to Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center

Although visitors at the Starved Rock State Park Lodge in Utica, Ill., will see ducks, raccoons, eagles and bear cubs near the lodge, they need not be concerned. The critters are made of wood.

Recently, Larry Jensen, a well-known sculptor, spent a week at the lodge using a chainsaw to carve animal figures out of dead oak trees surrounding the lodge.

"There were several white oaks near the lodge that had died," said Concessionaire Terry Cross. "We decided that rather than have them cut down and hauled away, we could have them transformed into something park visitors might enjoy — something we could contribute to the park that would be here long after we are gone."

These newly carved wooden critters recently welcomed more than 150 residents from Buedingen, West Germany. The guests also were welcomed by Park Superintendent John Blume, State Representative Peg McDonnell Breslin, Chief White Eagle of the Mohawk Nation and Princess Bobbie Bear of the Ottawa Tribe.

As part of the Illinois' European American Cultural Exchange, the West German guests requested to visit Starved Rock after hearing reports from Princess Bobbie Bear about the park's native American history.

Many businesses and associations also have chosen Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center to conduct meetings

and conferences. Caterpillar, Growmark and the Illinois Police Association are a few of the organizations that have held conferences at the lodge.

Located along the Illinois River, midway between LaSalle-Peru and Ottawa, Starved Rock's conference facilities include a large conference room, seating 150-200; two smaller conference rooms, seating 30-40; two meeting rooms, seating 20-25; and four board rooms, seating 10-20. Banquet facilities serve up to 250 individuals.

The 71 guest rooms and 22 cabin rooms range in price from \$39.95 to \$90. For more information or to make reservations please call (815) 667-4211.

All lodge facilities are in compliance with handicapped accessibility provisions, including the restaurants, lodging and pools.

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## Apple cider provides a warm welcome for winter visitors at Pere Marquette Lodge

Special Sunday through Thursday tour packages are available at Pere Marquette Lodge and Conference Center, located in the rolling bluffs just outside Grafton, Ill.

Beginning on Thanksgiving and continuing through New Years Day from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., visitors will be greeted with complimentary apple cider in Pere Marquette Lodge's Great Room. As guests use cinnamon sticks to stir their cider they can relax and enjoy the 8,000-acre park's wondrous scenic beauty.

Pere Marquette Lodge and Conference Center features 50 luxury guest rooms and 22 stone cabin rooms. Perfect for a tranquil getaway, the lodge offers winter rates

starting at \$40.50. A rate of only \$10 is charged for any additional guest who is 18 years of age or older. Children 17 and under stay free.

The lodge's conference facilities include audio-visual equipment, a public address system, spotlights and operators, decorations and ice carvings. Four banquet/meeting rooms with a combined space of 2,900 square feet also are available.

All areas of the lodge, including the indoor swimming pool, allow for handicapped access. An elegant dining room seats 150 and features family style or from the menu dining.

For more information or to make reservations, please call (618) 786-2331.